

Bcont
53. The method of claim 50, wherein the corresponding alleles are found on a HLA gene.

54. The method of claim 53, wherein the HLA gene is HLA class I.--

REMARKS

Claims 39-54 are pending in this application. Claims 1-9, 18-19 and 29-30 have been cancelled and new claims 39-54 have been added.

The specification has been amended to correct a minor typographical error. Support for the new claims can be found in numerous places throughout the application as filed, including, but not limited to:

claims 39-43: originally filed claims 1, 29 and 38; page 16, lines 19-20; page 17, lines 10-11; and page 19, lines 29-34;

claims 44-48: page 24, lines 23-32; page 25, lines 28-35 and the figures; and

claims 49-54: originally filed claims 18 and 19; page 20, line 13 through page 21, line 31 and page 2, lines 23-31.

Certain of the new claims broaden the scope of claims which have been cancelled.

The present amendment adds no new matter and is thus proper. Entry of this amendment in its entirety is therefore requested.

In view of the amendments and following remarks, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections to the application in the Office Action is respectfully requested.

I. Sequence Information

The Office Action noted that the applicants have not submitted a sequence listing or CRF. A sequence listing and CRF accompanies this Amendment and Response thereby placing the instant application in compliance with 37 CFR 1.821-1.825.

II. Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §112, Second Paragraph

Claims 1-9, 18-19 and 29-30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the applicant regards as the invention. Claims 1-9, 18-19 and 29-30 have been cancelled and thus the Examiner's rejection on this ground is moot. Therefore the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw this rejection.

III. Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1, 2 and 6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,387,505 to Wu (Wu), claims 1 and 8 were also rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,597,910 to Gudibande *et al* (Gudibande *et al*), and Claims 1 and 29-30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as anticipated by Zimmerman (Nucleic Acids Research, 1993, Vol. 21, No. 19, 4541-4547) (Zimmerman *et al.*). Claims 1, 2, 6, 8, and 29-30 have been cancelled rendering this ground for rejection moot. Therefore the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw this rejection.

IV. Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 3 and 7 were rejected as obvious in view of Wu, claims 4 and 5 were rejected as obvious over Wu in view of Biomagnetic Techniques in Molecular Biology manual (Dynal, 1995), Claim 9 was rejected as obvious over Gudibande *et al.*, and claims 18 and 19 were rejected as obvious over Wu in view of Zimmerman *et al.* Claims 3-5, 7, 9 and 18-19 have been cancelled rendering the Examiner's rejection moot. Therefore the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw this ground for rejection.

Applicants believe that the new claims of the instant application are novel and non-obvious over the previously cited references.

Serial No.: 09/077,615

V. Conclusion

In view of the forgoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance and thus an early indication of allowance is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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